

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 EA-10 /126 W
-----024519 242115Z /65

P R 241626Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 838
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USUN NEW YORK 3221

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3525

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, IT, CU
SUBJECT: CUBAN VIEWS ON HORN

1. MFA GAVE US ACCOUNT FEBRUARY 24 OF RECENT MEETING OF NEW
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN HAVANA WITH CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT
RODRIGUEZ. RODRIGUEZ MADE THREE MAJOR POINTS:

-- THAT CUBANS OPPOSE REFERRAL OF OGADEN DISPUTE
TO SECURITY COUNCIL AND WOULD CONSIDER IT "INADMISSIBLE."

-- THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL NOT CROSS SOMALI BORDER UNLESS
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WAR BECOMES PROTRACTED BY SOMALI RESISTANCE. IN THAT CASE,
INTRUSIONS MIGHT OCCUR IN COURSE OF HOSTILITIES BUT ONLY
ON "TEMPORARY" BASIS.

-- THAT CUBANS PURPOSE IN ETHIOPIA IS TO HELP EPMG EXPEL
AGGRESSORS FROM ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY. CUBANS DO
NOT EXCLUDE HOWEVER THAT, IN THE LONGER RUN AND IF

THE ETHIOPIANS WISH IT, THEY MIGHT NOT AID IN CREATION
OF FEDERATED ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

2. THIS IS FIRST TIME ITALIANS HAVE HEARD CONDITION
ATTACHED TO ASSURANCES ABOUT INVIOABILITY OF SOMALI
BORDERS. IN ADDITION, MFA BELIEVES THAT CUBAN
OPPOSITION TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION IS INDICATIVE
OF SOVIET VIEW. MFA THINKS SOVIETS MAY PREFER TO FO FOR
MILITARY SOLUTION TO CONFLICT AND, IN ANY CASE, DO NOT
WANT TO LISTEN TO SPEECHES IN SUECURITY COUNCIL BY CHINESE
AND OTHERS ABOUT THEIR INTERVENTION IN THE HORN.
AS TO CUBAN LONGER-RANGE INTENTIONS IN THE HORN,
ITALIANS NOTE THAT CASTRO IS STILL NURSING GRUDGE AGAINST
SIAD BARRE FOR HIS REJECTION OF CASTRO'S MUCH BALLYHOOED
MEDIATION EFFORT LAST YEAR.GARDNER

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